
**Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe, July 18, 1824, from
Thomas Jefferson and James Monroe Correspondence,
Transcribed and Edited by Gerard W. Gawalt,
Manuscript Division, Library of Congress**

Thomas Jefferson to James Monroe

Monticello July 18. 24.

Dear Sir

I have duly recd. your favor of the 12th inst. and concur in every sentimt. you express on the subject of mine of the 2d. They were exactly what I should have told to you myself had our places been changed. My letter meant only to convey the wishes of the party, and in few cases where circumstances have obliged me to communicate sollicitatns have I ever suffered my own wishes to mingle with theirs that of Peyton I except, which yet I would not have urged were it possible for you to appoint a better man, or one more solidly in the public esteem. In the case which was the

subject of my lte of the 2d the abilities are sfft., the temper & prudence questionable and the standing in public opn. defective. Yet this latter circumstance is always important, because it is not wisdom alone, but public confidne in that wisdom which can support an admin. Something however less marked may occur to give him decent and comfortable maintenance.

I am sorry to hear that England is equivocal. My reliance was on the great interest she had in the indepdce of the Spanish colonies, and my belief that she might be trusted in

Library of Congress

followg whatever clue would led to her interest. The Spanish agents will doubtless think it reasonable that we make our commitmt depend entirely on the concurrence of Engld. With that we are safe; without it we cannot protect them and they cannot reasonably expect us to sink ourselves uselessly & even injuriously for them by a Quixotic encounter of the whole world in arms, were it Spain alone I should have no fear. But Russia is said to have 70 ships of the line. France approaching that number and what should be in fronting such a force. It is not for the interest of Spain with America that our republic should be blotted out of the map, and to the rest of the world it would be an act of treason. I see both reason and justificn in hanging our answers to them on the coopern of England & directing all their importunities to that govt. We feel strongly for them, but our first care must be for ourselves. I am sorry for the doubtfulness of your visit to our nghood, and still more so for the ground of it. With my prayers that the last may be favorably relieved, accept the assurance of my affecte. Frdship & great respect Th. J.

FC (Jefferson Papers, Library of Congress).